in the context of identifying infrastructure required for implementing the new Bill on Legal Metrology. The Department of Consumer Affairs has included supply of 100 mobile laboratories amongst various States/UTs in the XIth Plan proposal.

Oil exploration in Barmer

†1595. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of crude oil exploration from oilfields found in the district of Barmer in Rajasthan is being carried out speedily;

(b) if so, whether the decision regarding places has been taken when such oil would be refined;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Mangalore refinery is not much willing to accept such oil; and

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating on setting up of any refinery in Barmer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Cairn Energy has made 14 oil and gas discoveries in RJ-ON-90/1 block in Barmer area of Rajasthan state/ First oil is expected in 2008-09.

(b) to (d) Government of India has nominated Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), for lifting of crude oil from the block, ONGC/MRPL has carried out the following studies in this regard:-

(i) Technical Feasibility Study by Engineers India Limited (EIL).

(ii) Market Study by M/s. Nexant.

(iii) Financial Appraisal by M/s. SBI Caps

(iv) ROU Survey by M/s. SECON

Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector in 1998, a refinery may be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public sector enterprise. Therefore, it is not the Government, but a Public or a Private sector

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

enterprise, which has to decide on setting up a refinery based on techno-economic feasibility. The proposal for setting up a Refinery at Barmer is under the consideration of ONGC.

Oil supplies to Nepal

1596. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that petroleum products were being supplied by Indian Public Sector Oil Corporations to Nepal;

(b) if so, the terms of the supplies;

(c) whether the supplies were covered under any treaty between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether our oil corporations have unilaterally imposed cut in supply volumes;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken, if any, for restoration of normal oil supplies to Nepal and/or revision of the terms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has been the supplier of petroleum products to Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) under 5 year agreement specifying the various terms and conditions. The current agreement is valid from April, 2002 to March, 2007.

(c) and (d) The supplies to NOC commenced since 1974 was based on the discussions between the Foreign Secretary, Government of India and the Foreign Secretary of His Maj. Govt. of Nepal held on 15th February, 1974. The supply agreement outlines the following aspects with regard to supply of petroleum products:

i. Operating principles
ii. Supply arrangements
iii. Pricing principles